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FULFILIMENT OF THE 1948 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PLAN OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USER

A. V. Topchiyev First Sci Secy Presidium, Acad Sci USSR

In 1948, the activity of the Academy of Sciences USSR featured an intense struggle for a general rise in scientific research, a decisive movement in scientific innovations, and active participation in building Communism in our country.

The academy put into practice many measures which insured the development of Michurinian biology in its institutions. These measures were based on decisions of last year's session of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V. I. Lenin and the conference of the presidium on problems of biological scinare.

The Academy of Sciences attempted to relate more closely the scientific activities of its institutes with problems of the national economy, and to include within its plan projects which have arisen from national economic problems.

New and important research was conducted in many scientific fields. Biologists were able to change the structure of gramicidin C and to obtain a new preparation called water-soluble gramicidin.

Many important results were obtained by the institutes of the Department of Technical Sciences. Power engineers established methods for registering intervals down to a billionth part of a second, and developed a plan for complex electrification of agriculture.

The Presidium studied the activity of five institutes with regard to the introduction into the national economy of the results of completed scientific works.

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Directors of the Institute of Physical Chemistry and the Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry did not organize their work in line with the introduction of the results of many completed studies into the national economy. The Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry has not yet introduced the results of such long-completed works as the processing of tin from tin concentrates, utilization of sulfate deposits, and 11 other projects.

During the period of its existence, another large institute, the Institute of Organic Chemistry, has introduced into the national economy 18 important projects. Eleven extensive projects are being put through large-scale industrial tests. Eight projects are completed but await testing and introduction. Although its record is better than that of the Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry, the management and the directors of research underestimate the necessity and urgency of practical action.

Analogous deficiencies were noted in the Power-Engineering Institute. The recently organized Institute of Metallurgy imeni A. A. Baykov has a small staff and is inadequately equipped for scientific work. However, the institute has implemented eight extensive projects and four more are under way.

The relatively small Institute of Crystallography is an organization seemingly concerned more with theoretical than with practical matters. To date, however, the results of two cf its projects are finding industrial application, and the national economy is awaiting the results of two more projects which are now in preparation.

Deficiencies peculiar to many of the institutes mentioned are also common to other institutes. Study of this problem shows three basic factors preventing timely and full use of scientific achievements.

- 1. Insufficient attention to this problem by bureau directors of departments, institutes, and laboratories, and authors of completed subjects.
- 2. Inadequate liaison of key workers in departments and institutes with ministries, plants, farms, branch institutes, and in certain cases, insufficient under tanding of requirements and perspectives for the development of pertinent branches of the national economy.
- 3. Deficiency of theoretical discoveries in respect to their practical application, and the lack of an agency of the Presidium, Academy of Sciences USSR, to direct the organizational work.

Radical improvement in introducing the results of completed scientific work into the national economy will necessitate yearly planning by institutes, departments, and the Presidium of the Academy.

Institutes and departments must in every way encourage and reward scientific workers for the speedy introduction of results of scientific work, and new technological processes, plant varieties, construction, instruments, etc.

The role of Soviet science and engineering during the perhal of gradual transformation from socialism to Communism is immeasurabely large. During this time, Soviet scientists responsible for the development of theoretical problems must take into account the demands of our national economy and, from their theoretical generalizations, render practical conclusions beneficial to our state. It is necessary to maintain close relationships between scientific institutions, industry, and agriculture. "It is required

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that the workers of our institutes know the way to the factories," rightfully declared S. I. Vavilov, president of the Academy of Sciences. Scientists must participate actively in working out and implementing the new, general plan for the reconstruction of Moscow. The agriculture of Moscow Oblast must become an example of the extensive introduction of the achievements of Michurinian science.

Certain scientists of the academy have exhibited such ideological deficiencies as bourgeois objectivism, cosmopolitanism, catering to foreign influences, etc. These develop in the absence of familiarity with the tenets of Marxism-Leninism and in relation to manifestations of bourgeois influences in the scientific genius of individual Soviet scientists.

The reartionary conception of Weismannism on the immutability of hereditary characteristics of organisms, perpetuation of "genes", and non-heredity of acquired characteristics found supporters among biologists working at the academy. The progressive, materialistic, truly Michurin course in biology for enriching agriculture with large discoveries did not receive the necessary support at the Academy of Sciences. These faults were revealed and censured by resolutions drawn up at a conference of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences in August 1948.

Mistakes and deficiencies of a similar nature have been noted among scientists and workers in physics, cheristry, geology, mechanics, and metallurgy and must be combated.

While foreign literature contains highly erroneous idealistic works feigning guidance and innovation, while bourgeois scientists deny dialectical materialism, a number of our scientists are underestimating the political significance and bitterness of this struggle and are avoiding publishing theoretical, generalized works of an advanced character.

The bourgeois myth of the nonpolitical character of science and its universal character must be exposed as falsification used by the bourgeois apologists in science for the purpose of spreading idealistic propaganda and political reaction.

problems in science must comprise the essential pert of the scientific, literary, and social activities of Soviet scientists. Philosophical, methodological problems, themes and problems of historical science, and engineering must be an integral part of the plans of scientific activities in our institutes.

Errors and faults found in our scientific works can be explained by the lack of criticism and self-criticism in institutes and departments of the academy.

In respect to the work of the Academy of Sciences on the selection and preparation of cadres, faults were revealed in the departments of chemical sciences, biclogical sciences, economics, and others. There were cases where cadres were selected not according to merit but according to personal connections.

The editorial boards of biblogical journals and scientific councils of institutes in the Department of Biological Sciences were reinforced with Micharinian representatives.

In conclusion, the problem of coordinating scientific activity should be examined.

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During the past year the Academy of Sciences USSR conducted extensive and diverse work on the coordination of scientific activity of the Academies of Sciences of the unica-republica, branches of scientific-research institutes, and chairs of higher institutes of learning.

The scientific plans of ten academies of sciences of the union-republics were considered and coordinated with the plan of the Academy of Sciences USSR at special sessions organized by the Council of Coordination of Scientific Activity of Republic Academies, affiliated with the Academy of Sciences USSR, in May and December 1948. Institutes of the Academy of Sciences USSR conducted numerous interdepartmental scientific sessions, conferences, and meetings on the results, perspectives, and methods of research work in various branches of science and its application.

Certain major scientific sessions and conferences conducted by institutes of the Academy of Sciences should be mentioned separately. A joint session of the Council for the Study of Productive Forces and the Azerbaydzhan Academy of Sciences at Baku considered petroleum problems. In Tashkent and Moscow there were conferences on irrigation and cotton growing, and on the coordination of research to establish new irrigation projects in the Amm Darlya Basin.

The Division of Chemical Sciences and the Academy of Sciences Lithuan an SSR held a joint conference at Riga devoted to problems of the chemical sciences. The Department of Biological Sciences conducted a conference at Moscow devoted to problems of Michurinian biology. The conference united the representatives of all academies and the corresponding chairs of institutes of higher learning, and in essence was an extensive inspection of biological achievements in the USSR. All-Union conferences were held on antibiotics, desert reclamation, problems of physiology, and other subjects.

All of this reveals that the relationship of the Academy of Sciences with scientific institutes of the republics and oblast centers was significantly strengthened during the past year. In 1949, these relations must be further fortified in order that a speedy fulfillment of the plan for the fourth year of the postwar Stalin Five-Year Plan can be realized.

The most important task confronting scientific institutions of the Soviet Union is the concentration of scientific effort in solving the leading national economic problems, the creation of scientific works which reveal the advantages of a socialist state and a socialist society, the presentation of the extent of our culture, and the remarkable qualities of our people, and the exposure of the imperialistic nature of the politics in ruling circles in the US, Great Britain, France, and other countries, and of the cosmopolitan bourgeois theories.

For 1949, the Academy of Sciences USSR has assumed the obligation to raise to a much higher level the philosophical generalization of contemporary natural science from the point of view of dialectical materialism, which will form the basis for further acceleration of the progress of theoretical and applied discipline.

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